

# NATIONAL FOREST FOR FLORIDA

FIRST RESERVATION TO BE  
CREATED EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.



LIVE  
OAK TREE WITH  
SPANISH MOSS.



GOOD REPRODUCTION  
OF LONGLEAF PINE.

CABBAGE PALMETTO. SABAL  
PALMETTO. BANK OF  
KISSIMMEE  
RIVER



FOREST OF PALMS  
CABBAGE PALMETTO.

To Florida goes the distinction of getting the first national forest created east of the Mississippi river. President Roosevelt has just signed a proclamation setting aside and naming the Ocala national forest in Marion county in eastern Florida and another proclamation creating the Dakota national forest in Billings county, North Dakota. Inasmuch as the last named national forest is the first in North Dakota, the two proclamations add two more states to the list of those wherein land will be put under scientific forest administration. There are now 19 states, and Alaska, having national forests.

Before the creation of the Ocala, in Florida, the two forests in Arkansas, the Ozark and the Arkansas, were the easternmost national forests. Practically all the other national forests are in the Rocky mountain and the Pacific coast states. The Florida forest has an area of 201,480 acres, of which about one-fourth has been taken up under various land laws. It covers a plateau between the St. John's and Ochlawaha rivers and at no point is an elevation exceeding 150 feet above sea level obtained. The area is by nature better fitted for the production of forest growth than for any other purpose. Nearly all of the area, however, seems particularly well adapted to the growth of sand pine, which is even now replacing the less valuable species, and with protection from fire almost the entire area will in time undoubtedly be covered with a dense stand of this species. The longleaf pine, a much more valuable commercial tree than the sand pine, appears rather sparsely on this forest and is confined principally to the lower flat lands along the streams on the borders of the forest.

In addition to the pines and scrub growths, bald cypress, cabbage palmetto and tupelo gum, gradually changing to water oak, ash, elm, magnolia, hickory and maple are found bordering the numerous ponds and lakes which are scattered abundantly throughout the confines of this forest.

Fire has played a very important part in bringing about the present

poorly forested condition of the Ocala, as year after year large fires have burned uninterruptedly over this tract, killing all vegetation and consuming the humus of the soil. Naturally protected portions which have not been subject to the flames prove positively, however, that the soil will rapidly respond to a little care taking and that the prevention of fires would eventually mean the reforestation of practically the entire area.

No sawmill operations have been conducted on the area included in the Ocala national forest. Turpentine by boxing is carried on over contiguous areas and through the careless and antiquated methods used the future pine crop of the adjoining region is greatly jeopardized. The soil is of little value for agricultural purposes and about the only crop which can be produced that will be of lasting value is sand pine, and with proper care and attention there should in time be a valuable forest of this species.

The new Dakota national forest consists of 14,080 acres in the Bad Lands region. It is located in Billings county and lies an equal distance between the Northern Pacific railroad on the north and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul on the south. Its creation is important for it means that an experimental field for forest planting has been secured in North Dakota, the least forested state in the Union, having only one per cent. of tree growth. The forest service expects to establish forest nurseries with the hope that in time to come the area may be reforested by artificial means. This feature is expected to prove a very good ob-

ject lesson to the settlers, who, it is hoped, will in turn plant windbreaks around their farms.

The forest is very open and for the most part contains a scattering stand of western yellow pine timber. Along the creek bed are found ash, box elder, cottonwood, elm and birch. Cedar breaks are also found on precipitous slopes bordering the streams. Western yellow pine is the only merchantable species, however, on the forest and the average stand per acre is not over 2,000 feet. The reproduction of pine is fairly good wherever mature trees occur, but owing to the open condition of the forest and the dense growth of grass it is for the most part unsatisfactory.

There is but little timber that will be sold from the forest at the present time, since this area is very isolated, being surrounded on all sides by vast plains. Many homesteaders have in the past come to this forest for timber for logs to build their houses.

No sawmill operations have ever been conducted on the area. When the Northern Pacific railroad was being built a larger number of trees were cut for railroad ties, and together with the logs which have been procured for house building by settlers, this is the only use which has been made of the timber on the forest. It is understood that the logs used in the construction of President Roosevelt's cabin, which now stands in the state capitol grounds at Bismarck, N. D., were obtained from the area now included in the Dakota national forest.

Gov. Burke of North Dakota is very much interested in this forest and thinks it will be of inestimable value to the people who live in the region where the forest is created.

Both of the new national forests, the Ocala in Florida, and the Dakota, will be put under administration by the forest service as soon as possible.

## HER BROTHER'S WIFE.

Once there was a woman who had a married brother whom she took to task for his failure to contribute liberally to the support of their mother.

"It seems to me, John," she said, "that you might give a good deal more than you do to ma. She needs a new set of furs, and here's a hat that she has set her mind on, but I can't afford to buy it for her."

"I'd like to give her more than I do," John replied, "but my wife would object."

"Why let your wife know anything about it? What she doesn't know won't hurt her."

"That's so. I might do it in that way. I suppose you would feel that your husband was doing the right thing if he contributed to his mother's support without letting you know about it. Every man owes more to his mother than he can ever—"

"Why do you suggest such a thing? If Henry did that how could I ever trust him again?"

Moral: Fix it to suit yourself.—Chicago Record-Herald.

## His Mother Explains.

"Say, ma."

"Don't call me ma. Say mother. What is it?"

"What's a green old age?"

"When a man who is bald and wrinkled and tottering marries a young woman who wouldn't look at him a second time if he didn't have lots of money," the lady replied, casting a stealthy glance at her husband, who was busy reading the stock quotations. "It may be said that he has lived to a green old age."—Chicago Record-Herald.

## French Ingenuity Triumphant.

All the women prisoners at the Clarksenwell sessions recently appeared in the dock wearing their hats. The rule of "no hats" was strictly enforced, but their absence in no way troubled the women. Indeed, one balanced a hat more than six feet in circumference without the slightest trace of anxiety. How she did it only a woman could tell.—London Chronicle.

## GOOD BLOOD PAYS.

The Lesson That the Western Stock Show Association is Trying to Teach.

There is an old saying in England among stockmen that "the bull is half the herd." This is as true as any old saw ever uttered, but the stockmen of this country are still learning this fact by experience. The main object of the National Western Stock Show is to educate the stockmen of the West to the fact that there is good profit in good blood and in order that they may profit by the lesson in a practical way the association has enlisted the assistance of the Pure Blood Record Association to provide a few really choice animals in the various breeds that can be sold to western breeders at a low price. The public sales to be held at the stock show in Denver during the week of January 18th, are selected from the best herds in America and are sold not for the purpose of making a big profit, but to introduce the breeds into the West. The buyers make their own prices. The animals are selected by a committee and are not only typical of the breed they represent, but are choice individuals.

The American Shorthorn Breeders' Association will offer in this sale about fifty-five head of choice young bulls, from such herds as those of F. W. Harding of Wisconsin, N. P. Clarke, T. J. Wornall & Sons, C. E. Leonard & Son, D. R. Hanna, Carpenter & Ross of Ohio, A. C. Shellenberger, W. A. Forsythe, H. M. Hill, Henry Stunkel, Chas. Wells & Son, B. N. Newby, Fremont Watts.

These names are well known to Shorthorn breeders through the whole country and they represent the best of the Shorthorn herds of America.

The Hereford Association is arranging a sale of choice things fully equal to the Shorthorn offerings. The very best breeders and herds of the country will be represented. The same may be said of the Galloway breed and of the Aberdeen Angus.

This feature of the big stock show is the business end and the annual dispersal of these well bred cattle through the West means millions to the live stock industry of this section in the future.

The new building for the stock show is completed. It represents an investment of \$200,000 and will comfortably seat over 6,000 people. The big arena will be constantly occupied with stock during the week of January 18th-23rd and the indications are that the show will be the greatest ever held West of Chicago.

## Special Holiday Rates.

The Colorado & Southern will make a special rate of one fare for the round trip to all points in the state. Tickets on sale Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1 and in addition, from all points to Denver and return Dec. 27th and 28th. Final limit January 4th.

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